

served not only the City of Chicago with tireless dedication but who has served his county with selfless valor. Alderman James Balcer is a hero by any definition, and the Bronze Star recently pinned to his chest is only a token symbol of a life marked by bravery and service.

The people of Chicago know Jim Balcer as Alderman Balcer, representing the 11th ward on the City Council. They know him as a strong advocate for the city's veterans and as an effective voice for his community. Few know more about military history or are more dedicated to understanding the challenges facing those who have fought for our country. During his four years on the city council, Alderman Balcer has worked tirelessly for his constituents and sung their praises without so much as a note from his own horn.

But long before he was Alderman Balcer, Jim was Pfc. Balcer in the U.S. Marine Corps. As an 18-year-old soldier more familiar with the streets of his home area of Bridgeport than the jungles of southeast Asia, Balcer was a member of the 9th Marine Regiment during the Vietnam War. In late February of 1969, Pfc. Balcer and his company were holding their position on a hilltop in the A Chau Valley in Laos. As a group of the soldiers descended into the valley below on a reconnaissance mission, enemy fire erupted from the dense foliage, trapping the group in a hail of bullets and shrapnel.

With dozens of young Marines killed and wounded at the bottom of the hill, it was Pfc. Jim Balcer who volunteered to lead the mission to rescue them. Through that long Laotian night, in the pouring rain and deep, treacherous mud, Balcer made trip after trip into the valley to reach his fallen comrades. Half-hour descents through the jungle were followed by nearly four hours of backbreaking climbs up steep and slippery embankments, under enemy fire and carrying makeshift stretchers made from ponchos.

Thanks to Pfc. Balcer and his fellow Marines, every member of the 9th Regiment who went into the valley that night in 1969 came out. The Bronze Star is given to soldiers who distinguish themselves "by heroic or meritorious achievement or service . . . while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States or while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force." Ordinary language to describe extraordinary courage, but hardly enough to describe the actions of someone who to this day still tells his own story without a hint of bravado.

The City of Chicago is fortunate to have someone so tenacious and selfless on its side. Alderman Jim Balcer is as dedicated to Chicago and its people now as he was to his fellow soldiers then. A man of integrity and honor, he

is to be commended on receiving the Bronze Star. Wear it proudly, Jim, for we are proud of you.●

TRIBUTE TO S. LANE FAISON, JR.

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Madam President, today I rise to recognize the contributions of S. Lane Faison, Jr., to American art education and museums, and to acknowledge with gratitude, his 20-year service as a trustee of the Bennington Museum in Bennington, Vermont.

Professor Faison's seventy year career as an art history teacher, curator, scholar, and administrator reflects his significant efforts in the advancement of art, and its importance to our cultural identity. His scholarly influence has been extensive, and he has created an extraordinary legacy that he has generously shared with his community.

Since 1981, Professor Faison has given his time and expertise as a highly valued and appreciated trustee of the Bennington Museum. It is very fitting that the Bennington Museum Board of Trustees has chosen to honor him through the establishment of a fund designated exclusively for enhancing exhibitions. It is my pleasure to acknowledge the "S. Lane Faison, Jr., Exhibition Endowment Fund" and to congratulate Professor Faison on the establishment of this fund in his honor.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTIONS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2001, the Secretary of the Senate, on October 5, 2001, during the recess of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled joint resolutions:

H.J. Res. 42. A joint resolution memorializing fallen firefighters by lowering the American flag to half-staff in honor of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

H.J. Res. 51. A joint resolution approving the extension of nondiscriminatory treat-

ment with respect to the products of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2001, the enrolled joint resolutions were signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD) on October 5, 2001.

At 11:40 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2646. An act to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2011.

H.R. 2883. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2002 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has disagreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2590) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes, and has agreed to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints the following Members as the managers of the conference on the part of the House: Mr. ISTOOK, Mr. WOLF, Mrs. NORTHUP, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. SWEENEY, Mr. SHERWOOD, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. HOYER, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, and Mr. OBEY.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar.

S. 1499. A bill to provide assistance to small business concerns adversely impacted by the terrorist attacks perpetrated against the United States on September 11, 2001, and for other purposes.

S. 1510. A bill to deter and punish terrorist acts in the United States and around the world, to enhance law enforcement investigatory tools, and for other purposes.

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2883. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2002 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with